

WASHINGTON – The FY2008 federal budget approved by Congress today includes \$1,053,272 to expand Milwaukee Public School's after school programs, Senator Herb Kohl and Congresswoman Gwen Moore announced. The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education portion of the budget also includes funding for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee to expand an early literacy program and for the AIDS Resource Center to expand access to health care, at the request of Kohl and Moore.

"I hear so many words of praise and thanks from students and parents about these after school programs," said Moore. "For many kids, this funding will mean that learning and growth can continue long after the official school day's final bell has rung. Milwaukee's after school programs and Boys and Girls Clubs provide these children expanded learning opportunities in a safe environment."

"Milwaukee's after school programs provide a safe, structured, education-focused environment for our kids," said Kohl. "Our area learning centers and Boys and Girls Clubs are devoted to helping kids succeed, I look forward to seeing these federal investments being put to good use."

The funds secured by Kohl and Moore include:

\$1,053,272 for Milwaukee Public Schools: Community Learning Centers - Milwaukee Public Schools has developed a network of thirty-eight Community Learning Centers, serving both elementary and middle school students. Over the years, the program has been demonstrated to significantly help students improve their academic achievement and has helped provide positive alternatives to children that would otherwise be prone to risky behavior.

The federal funds provided by Kohl and Moore will allow for the continuation of the Community Learning Center's work during the school year, as well as provide a summer program to students.

\$243,667 for Milwaukee Boys and Girls Clubs - This funding will be used to serve 550 youth at nine sites. This investment will allow the Clubs to hire additional staff to aid struggling student readers in Milwaukee. Fewer than half of all third graders in the Milwaukee Public Schools were

proficient in reading in recent testing.

\$118,886 for the AIDS Resource Center Wisconsin – This funding will help provide health care and case management services to low-income HIV/AIDS patients in Milwaukee

The FY2008 federal budget has been approved by both chambers of Congress and now goes to the President to be signed into law. The project amounts reflect a 1.747% across-the-board Administration cut in funding.

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